

regard intellectual and moral illumination as the surest means of happiness and usefulness. And wisely so too; for ever since the *fiat* of the Creator went forth "in the beginning"—when chaos and darkness ruled supreme over the material globe, "and the earth was without form and void," saying "let there be light," intellectual and moral, as well as physical light, has demonstrated its necessity and vindicated its utility.

But as the light which shone forth, in the beginning, was not partially diffused, so should it be with the lights of science and religion; their diffusion should not be partial,—confined to a favored few and destined for the benefit of a part alone—but should be as generously and liberally disseminated throughout the whole race of mankind, as the rays of the sun in the heavens are shed in brilliant effulgence around the globe. But such has not been the case. It is lamentable to look back, even to the most enlightened ages of the world, and behold the ignorance of the masses of the people. A few Poets, Orators and Philosophers, it is true, stand out in bold relief, to rescue those ages from oblivion; but they are only 'stars glittering on the mantle of night,' and owe their recognition and importance to the absence of the bright day-orb of science shedding abroad his genial rays over the masses of the people.

To what else, but to the ignorance of the people, and the corruption or still grosser ignorance of the rulers, can we attribute the tame submission of the people to the preposterous ideas which have so long held sway in the world, respecting the prerogatives of Kings—to the postulate that the great mass of mankind were made to be slaves, "hewers of wood and drawers of water," to spend their time,